Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 25 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Sunday 26 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Friday 24 Dec 2021 at 13:39

Confidence: Medium for the Christmas day detail with poor conditions currently expected to hold mainly to the south of your area until the evening. Confidence high for an unsettled Boxing day, but lower for the detail of worst of conditions, also for the pattern from Monday.

Headline for Saturday 25 Dec 2021: Mainly dry, bright morning, cloud increasing to bring later light snow. Feeling very cold in summit gale, perhaps severe gale, winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 25 Dec 2021

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
10%	20%	20%	<05%	<05%	10%	20%	30%

Forecast for Saturday 25 Dec 2021

Weather: Turning rather cloudy overnight bringing the risk of some patchy light rain, sleet and snow. Most staying dry through daylight hours of Christmas, with brightness best across the north and during morning. Gradually cloud thickening and lowering from the south through the afternoon to bring a showery area of snow, and perhaps freezing rain, for the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 90% by day becoming 60% early evening, 30% by midnight.

Visibility: Good or very good, becoming moderate to very poor in rain, snow, sleet, also only a few metres in hill fog with bases by day largely well broken and above the summits, lowering more generally to 600m late evening.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 25 Dec 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	29/45 E	34/47 E	41/54 E	35/51 E	34/48 SE	35/49 E	37/50 E	39/52 E	41/54 E
600	32/45 E	30/42 E	35/48 E	37/53 E	37/53 SE	37/53 SE	36/53 SE	36/52 SE	35/50 SE
300	19/36 E	19/35 E	18/37 E	21/41 E	21/41 E	18/40 E	19/41 E	19/42 E	19/43 E
Valley	18/36 E	17/34 E	18/37 E	20/40 E	20/39 E	20/39 E	20/40 E	19/40 E	18/38 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-1/-10	-2/-11	-3/-13	-3/-13	-2/-12	-2/-11	-3/-12	-3/-13	-3/-12
600	-0/-9	-0/-8	-1/-9	-1/-10	-2/-11	-2/-11	-2/-12	-3/-12	-2/-11
300	2/-4	2/-4	2/-4	1/-5	1/-5	1/-6	0/-6	-0/-7	-0/-7
Valley	4/-1	4/-0	4/-1	4/-2	4/-2	3/-3	3/-3	2/-4	2/-4
Freezing Level*	400m	500m	500m	300m	100m	100m	100m	100m	200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Winds gusting to 60 mph across highest and most exposed ridges and summits, combining with low temperatures to bring a severe wind chill effect.

Forecast for Sunday 26 Dec 2021

Weather: An overcast day with occasional snow through the morning, which only slowly and erratically turns to rain below around 600m. Precipitation becoming more showery in nature from afternoon, with the bulk of these across western ranges.

Maximum wind: East or southeast initially mean 30-35 mph with gusts 50mph, gradually easing through the day.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10% becoming 70% for any given time during the afternoon and evening.

Visibility: Becoming moderate to very poor in rain and snow, frequently at first then infrequently in later showers. Also becoming only a few metres in hill fog with bases quite extensive from 450-600m during morning, sporadically so in later showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 1 Celsius increasing 5 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius increasing minus 1 later
Freezing level: 100m lifting 700m later

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 24 December 2021 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:10 Full report: The vast majority of the Lakeland fells and paths are now clear of snow and ice up to and including summit level. That said, above 750m some substantial patches of snow remain. These are generally, but not exclusively, to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on east and north facing aspects. Up to 2 days ago the remaining snow had been hard and icy and this combined with the remaining snow's location and aspect has made them resistant to any thaw. That stated, with a summit temperature at midday of just above freezing and with light drizzle/cloud, the snow was very slowly softening and thawing. Although most paths are completely clear of snow, care needs to be taken where they are covered – especially on steep ground such as on the, so called, "easy" route up Helvellyn from Swirrals; here there is a bank of avoidable (but it requires a scramble) steep snow. There are deep steps cut into it, but such sections require care – especially in descent. Conversely both Striding and Swirral Edges can now be climbed without setting foot on snow, although there is a patch of avoidable snow on the path guarding Striding's exit. More of a hazard today were the damp, slippery conditions underfoot – especially when moving over rocky ground or paths. It doesn't have to be icy to be slippery !! Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill (what the temperature feels like) remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells. And for those doing just that tomorrow, or possibly just wishing that they were (!) or the majority of you at home, may the Fell Top Assessing team of Zac, Wes and Jon wish you a very Merry, Happy and safe Christmas. Temperature: plus 1.0 C, Maximum wind speed 14.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 5.3 C, Average wind speed: 11.7 mph
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